



LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH AND
SANITARY CONDITION

of the

Rural Sanitary District
of Penrith

For the Year 1938.

F. W. GAVIN,

M.D., CH.B.(Edin.), D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH AND
SANITARY CONDITION

of the

Rural Sanitary District
of Penrith

For the Year 1938.

F. W. GAVIN,


M.D., CH.B.(Edin.), D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Penrith :

REED'S LTD., Printers, &c., 46 King Street

1939.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29984956>

MANSION HOUSE,
PENRITH,

July, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Penrith Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Dickenson and Members.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the District for 1938.

The general health of the area has been satisfactory. The birth rate for the year was 13.44 compared with a rate of 12.28 for 1937, and it is pleasing to note an increased rate.

The death rate at 11.84 shows a decline on the previous year when the rate was 13.79.

The standardised death rate, obtained by multiplying the death rate, corrected by inward and outward transferable deaths, by a factor supplied by the Registrar General, was 10.53. For this area the factor is 0.89 and it is used for purposes of comparison with other areas, and allows for the age and sex distribution of the population.

The infantile mortality rate has increased from 58 deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births in 1937 to 92 in 1938. It must, however, be recorded that no less than 93% of these deaths in 1938 were in children aged one month or less than one month old.

There were no maternal deaths in the district during 1938.

The year was marked by a high incidence of scarlet fever, which was endemic—apart from the month of February—throughout the year, and while many of these cases were mild, some were severe, but, fortunately, there were no deaths from this cause.

Diphtheria was notified in two adults and one pre-school age child, and there were no deaths. It is satisfactory to note that there were no cases amongst school children, and, in this connection, the scheme for immunization of school children against this dangerous disease made further progress, as will be seen from the numbers dealt with at various schools noted later in this report.

Measles was epidemic in the area during the spring months and accounted for the closure of 15 Schools. Arrangements were made for the admission and treatment of severe cases at the Fairhill Fever Hospital, especially those with pneumonic complications, and four cases were admitted.

The Public Mortuary established jointly with the Penrith Urban Council in Penrith has proved useful and satisfactory, and contains adequate facilities for postmortem examinations.

Further inspections of all the public elementary schools have been carried out, and it is pleasing to report progress in this matter. Schemes for the reconstruction of the sanitary arrangements at Skelton and Hutton Roof Schools have been completed, and arrangements are in hand for extensive improvements at Penruddock School.

Marked progress has also been made under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, and this is a matter for congratulation to all concerned.

Reports on the progress of the water supplies to certain areas in the district are to be found in this report by Mr. Swift, Sanitary Surveyor.

In conclusion I wish to record my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, to J. W. Smith, Esq., Clerk of the Council, and to S. Swift, Esq., Sanitary Surveyor, for their co-operation and assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Miss Dickenson and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. GAVIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Public Health and Sanitary Conditions

of

The Penrith Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

The Statistics for the year will be found below and also in Appendices I (a) and I (b) at the end of the Report. Appendix I (a) is from the returns of the Registrar General and I (b) from the fortnightly returns of the local Registrar.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	181,531
Estimate of Resident Population (mid June, 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	11,230
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	3,120
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£40,252
Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£169 13s. 10d.
Live Births—		Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	78	...	64	...	142
Illegitimate	...	4	...	5	...	9
						<hr/> 151
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population—	13.44.					<hr/>
Still Births—		Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	—	...	4	...	4
Illegitimate	...	1	...	—	...	1
						<hr/> 5
Rate per 1,000 total births—	33.11.					<hr/>
		Male.		Female.		Total.
Deaths	...	65	...	68	...	133
Death Rate per 1,000 of population—	11.84					<hr/>
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 of population—	10.53,					

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	92.72
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	86.09
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	...	...	...	6.63

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is stated to be 181,531 acres, and the Registrar General's estimate of the population is 11,230. The lime works at Flusco, Blencowe, and Red Hills, the alabaster works at Little Salkeld, the brick works at Culgaith, and some quarries are the local industries, but agricultural work however remains the chief source of employment in the district.

On 31st December, 1937, the number of unemployed in the district was 52 men, 6 women and 4 juveniles, whereas on 31st December, 1938, the numbers were 53 men, 2 women and 0 juveniles.

There is no form of employment carried on in this district which has a detrimental effect on the health of the workpeople.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The number of births for the year is 151, giving a rate of 13.44, and may be compared with last year when the number was 138 and the rate 12.28. The number of births in 1936 was 184, giving a rate of 16.06.

Deaths.—The number of deaths belonging to the district is 133, which gives a rate of 11.84, the figures for last year being 156 deaths and a rate of 13.79. The standardised death rate for the year is 10.53. It is again noticeable that a very large proportion of deaths occur after the age of 65 years and that Heart Disease (40), Other Circulatory Diseases (10), and Cancer (17) are the chief causes,

The figures given below, supplied by the County Medical Officer, will be interesting :—

	Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Adjusted Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England and Wales	15.1	11.6	11.6	53
Administrative County of Cumberland	15.9	13.5	13.0	60
Urban Districts of Cumberland	16.8	13.5	13.6	54
Rural Districts of Cumberland	15.2	13.6	12.4	64
Rural District of Penrith	13.44	10.60	10.53	92

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1938.

Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation :—

F. 1 day ; M. 1 day ; M. 3 days ; M. 1 day ; M. 1 month ;
M. 1 month ; F. 3 days ; F. 5 hours ; F. 1 week ; F. 1 day ;
M. 1 hour ; M. 4 hours.

Meningitis (not notified) :—

M. 7 months.

Natural Causes :—

M. 1 month.

It will be observed that the Infantile Mortality Rate jumped up from 58 per 1,000 live-births in 1937 to 92 in 1938. It is notable, however, that of the 14 deaths as recorded above, no less than 13 were aged 1 month or younger, and 7 (50%) did not live longer than 1 day.

It is satisfactory to note that there were no maternal deaths in the district during the year under review.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There is no alteration in the provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. The Medical Officer of Health for this area has a similar appointment with the Urban District Council, and he also acts as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for the Cumberland County Council. His qualifications are M.D., Ch.B.(Edin.), D.P.H.

The Sanitary Surveyor has a full time appointment. His qualifications are:—Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute and Diploma as Meat and Food Inspector.

There are also two officials employed to look after the water supplies of the area, and two unqualified housing assistants are also employed.

2. With regard to Laboratory facilities and Hospital service, no changes have been made during the year.

A new 20 h.p. Austin Ambulance was provided for the use of the Penrith and District Joint Ambulance Committee, which serves three authorities, viz.:—Penrith Urban District Council, Penrith Rural District Council and North Westmorland Rural District Council. The Clerk of the Joint Committee is Mr. C. H. Huntley, Town Hall, Penrith.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

No action has been taken by the County Council in pursuance of Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929, nor has any action been taken under Section 307 or Section 320 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am indebted to Mr. Swift, Sanitary Surveyor, for the following report:—

1. (i) Water.

In the annual reports for 1936 and 1937 lengthy reports were submitted in respect of water supplies to western and northern parts of the area, and it has been found during the past four years that the smaller supplies on the eastern side, although not reducing in yield, required augmentation owing to the rapid increase in consumption, chiefly on account of milk production in the area.

It has therefore been necessary to make provision for augmentation of these supplies, and several springs of good yield have been located on that side of the district, but, before deciding to connect, they had constantly to be under inspection and gauging to ascertain that they would be capable of giving a sufficient yield throughout the dry period, when consumption is most likely to increase.

After inspection suitable springs were located, and the supplies at Croglin, Gamblesby and Skirwith, have been increased to the extent of 60,000 gallons per day, and, when completed, will be sufficient for their needs for some years to come.

It is very fortunate, during a time of drought particularly, that many of the supplies in this area are duplicated. When laying the new comprehensive scheme some years ago the old supply was preserved by connecting to the new scheme and inserting reflux valves, which automatically come into action when a shortage takes place, or when a long section is shut down for some unforeseen reason. It is well known that there is a large and very complicated network of water mains throughout the district, and when conditions are what may be termed normal, difficulties constantly arise according to the various weather conditions.

During the past two years it has been necessary to deal with intermittent complaints of shortage of water at Watermillock. This district, which is served chiefly by private supplies, was canvassed in 1931, with a view to extending the Regional Water Scheme to this area, but it was found that practically all the properties in the area had a supply of some kind and the residents did not wish to join the larger scheme. The complaints referred to are of isolated properties, and it is considered that the excessive cost of taking water mains into this area would not be an economic proposition on account of the small revenue the Council would receive in return. These complaints could be dealt with locally.

Casually speaking, the most part of this widely scattered area is now supplied with water from the Council's mains, which is a great asset for an area of this description.

A copy of the Analyst's report upon a sample of water taken at the Head Works at Dowthwaite Head is inserted below :—

EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Time and place of sample taken. Filter House, 16/11/38.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Agar plate count.	O.1 ml. colonies	1 ml. colonies	10 ml. colonies
At 22 °C.	—	—	5
At 37 °C.	—	—	1

Probable number of coli-aerogenes present in 100 ml.—Nil.

CHEMISTRY.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—Clear and colourless.

p.H. 6.7.

	Parts per 100,000					
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0078
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27 °C. in 15 minutes	0.004
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27 °C. in 4 hours	0.008
Total solids	3.0
Suspended matter	Nil
Hardness—total	1.8
Hardness—permanent	1.7
Hardness—temporary	0.1
Chlorine present as chlorides	0.60
Heavy metals	Nil
Active chlorine	Nil

Opinion :—

A very soft water of great purity both chemically and bacteriologically but may be plumbosolvent.

(Signed) LESLIE H. EASSON,
Chemist.

1. (ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

The question of sewerage is constantly being considered, and the more urgent and difficult schemes requiring attention are those relating to Kirkoswald, Skirwith, Greystoke and High Hesket.

The Council's Engineers have been called in and schemes have been prepared for Kirkoswald, Skirwith and Greystoke, and also for the reconditioning of the outfall works at Lazonby. Unfortunately, the Crisis created additional work in connection with National Defence, and consequently this and other works in the district have been shelved for the time being.

It is desired and hoped that progress in these matters may be made in the near future.

2. Rivers and Streams.

Vide Supra.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

Owing to the extension of the Council's Water Supply to outlying districts, conversion of privies to the water carriage system has been carried out in many instances, and the old privy middens abolished.

During the past year approximately 29 privies have been condemned and water closets installed in replacement. 25 houses, apart from new houses, have been fitted with bathrooms. In the majority of these cases drainage is by means of a septic tank, in consequence of their isolation and the non-availability of public sewers.

3. (ii) Public Cleansing.

The question of refuse disposal has been carefully considered in this district for some years past, and good progress has been made during the year in this class of work. In addition to schemes already in operation in the district collection schemes have been put into operation for Hunsonby, Winskill, Little Salkeld, Robberby, Ousby, Melmerby, Watermillock, Ulcatrow and Bennett Head. Suitable tips have been provided capable of taking the refuse from these places for a period of from fifteen to twenty years.

There are other places in the district where improvements can be carried out, and these will be attended to when time permits.

3. (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary of Inspections Made.

Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Dairies and Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	579
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	600
Petrol Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	192
Carbide Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Waterworks	..	..	..	..	..	..	1260
Sewerage Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	720
Works in Progress—New Drains, &c...	..	..	..	..	..	..	549
New Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	290
General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	279
Inspections <i>re</i> Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Inspections under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	359
Re-inspection of the same	..	..	..	..	..	..	246
Inspection of Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	60

Works Carried Out.

Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	4
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	40
New Spouting fixed	..	..	..	..	..	55
Air Drains fixed	..	..	..	..	..	9
Floors relaid and repaired	..	..	..	..	..	47
Walls repaired or cemented	..	..	..	..	..	107
Scullery Sinks trapped	..	..	..	..	..	46
Water Closets constructed	..	..	..	..	..	48
Water Closets repaired	..	..	..	..	..	75
Privies and E.C.'s constructed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	7
Liquid-manure nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	19
Ashpits or Accumulations of Refuse removed	..	..	..	..	..	12
Drains constructed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	58
Sewers and Drains repaired and cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	32
New Septic Tanks built	..	..	..	..	..	27
Water Supplies carried to Houses	..	..	..	..	..	87
New Baths fixed	..	..	..	..	..	43
Cowsheds improved	..	..	..	..	..	24
New Cowsheds built	..	..	..	..	..	4
New Cooling-houses erected	..	..	..	..	..	27
New Houses erected	..	..	..	..	..	12
Houses altered or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	33
New Windows fixed	..	..	..	..	..	69
New Ceilings put up or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	61
New Slop Sinks fitted to Houses	..	..	..	..	..	58

3. (v) Camping Sites.

Number of camping sites in the area	...	...	...	5
Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued	...	...	...	Nil
Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938	...	...	...	36

3. (vi) Smoke Abatement.

No action of any kind was necessary during the year.

3. (vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) There are no public swimming baths in the area.

(b) There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area. There are, however, two school swimming baths at Culgaith and Hunsonby, and frequent changes of the water are undertaken to ensure its satisfactory condition.

3. (viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action of any kind was required during the year under review.

4. Schools.

A general inspection of all schools in the area has been carried out, and notices or informal letters sent to the Managers and other persons concerned. Unfortunately, most of the Schools are Church Schools and consequently short of capital, but extensive alterations were carried out at two of the schools during the year.

The drainage system and closet accommodation at Skelton School has been reconstructed and converted to the water carriage system, with separate wash-basins for teachers, boys and girls, and the sanitary accommodation is now extremely satisfactory.

A similar scheme has also been carried out at Hutton Roof School. This school and premises are now of modern design and the children enjoy first class sanitary conditions.

A similar scheme has also been proposed for Penruddock, providing for extensive enlargement and improvement, but unfortunately there has been delay in the transfer of the land and the work has been held up in consequence.

It is impossible to put all this work in hand at once, and it is intended to deal with three schools in each year, and this should bring all the schools up to a reasonable standard during the next five years.

The following schools were closed owing to infectious diseases amongst the children, viz. :—

CLOSED.

School.		From		To	Reason.
Renwick ..	..	18/1/38	..	28/1/38	Sore Throats
Armathwaite ..	..	27/1/38	..	11/2/38	Measles
Sowerby Row ..	..	31/1/38	..	18/2/38	Measles & Influenza Colds
Culgaith ..	..	4/2/38	..	25/2/38	Measles
Skirwith ..	..	3/2/38	..	25/2/38	Measles & Whooping Cough
Lazonby ..	..	4/2/38	..	4/3/38	Measles
High Hesket ..	..	8/2/38	..	25/2/38	„
Langwathby ..	..	9/2/38	..	25/2/38	„
Hunsonby ..	..	9/2/38	..	25/2/38	„
Hunsonby ..	..	8/3/38	..	18/3/38	„
Great Salkeld ..	..	17/2/38	..	25/2/38	„
Melmerby ..	..	22/2/38	..	18/3/38	„
Gamblesby ..	..	8/3/38	..	14/4/38	„
Mungrisdale ..	..	16/3/38	..	1/4/38	„
Greystoke ..	..	1/4/38	..	14/4/38	„
Plumpton ..	..	29/4/38	..	20/5/38	„
Watermillock ..	..	3/5/38	..	13/5/38	„
Stainton ..	..	2/5/38	..	6/5/38	Colds

HOUSING.

A very satisfactory number of schemes have been dealt with under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, the number of houses reconstructed being nine schemes comprising seventeen houses.

During the year the number of plans submitted and approved was as follows :—

New Houses	...	...	...	12
Re-constructed Houses	...	...	...	18
Additions to Houses	...	...	...	12
Other Buildings	...	...	...	21
Cowsheds	...	...	...	4

The statistics required under the Housing Act are given below :—

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	157
(b)	Number of Inspections made for purpose	...	...	...	...	...	359
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	157
(b)	Number of Inspections made for purpose	...	...	...	...	...	157
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	8
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	27

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	16
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	1
--	-----	---

(2) Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By Owners	1	
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil	
(b) Proceedings under Public Healths Acts :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By Owners	Nil	
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil	
Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil	
Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil	
4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING.		
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	5	
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	5	
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	22	
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1	
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil	
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	Nil	
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

The Council make strenuous efforts to take advantage of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, which provide the means of clearing up housing difficulties in such a rural area as this where houses cannot possibly be built for an agricultural population to produce anything like an economic rent.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are a large number of persons registered in this district as Milk Producers. The number of persons on the register is 992, made up as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	14
Accredited ...	...	...	19
Wholesale Only	...	...	214
Wholesale and Retail	...	...	71
Retail Only	...	...	169
Butter	...	...	445
Cream	...	...	60

During the year samples of milk were taken for analysis in 194 cases, and the results were :—

From Schools :—

31 samples taken—

Standard A*	...	...	25
Standard B†	...	...	6

* Standard A Satisfactory.

† Standard B Unsatisfactory.

From T.T. Producers :—

34 samples taken—

Standard A	...	...	30
Standard B	...	...	4

From Accredited Producers :—

66 samples taken—

Standard A	...	...	42
Standard B	...	...	24

From Ungraded Producers :—

63 Samples taken—

Standard A	...	...	27
Standard B	...	...	36

No traces of Tubercle Bacilli were found.

Samples taken during the months of January, February, March, July, August and September, are required to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test only, whereas the samples taken during the remaining six months of the year are tested for B.Coli and Tubercle Bacilli in addition. Samples are taken from all schools which have adopted the milk in schools scheme four times per year.

Meat and Other Food.

There are at present eleven slaughter houses in the district, including one private slaughter-house at Greystoke Castle.

All meat stores and slaughterhouses are regularly inspected and all are kept clean and in satisfactory condition.

The amount of meat condemned during the year is very low. The class of meat killed for food is always of a high quality, and furthermore we are fortunate in having all cattle bought through the Auction, and by such means the animal is insured, thereby the butcher suffers no loss should the carcass be condemned, being insured for the full amount paid through the Auction Mart.

The practice of importing cattle from other districts for slaughter in this area has completely stopped following a severe warning to the butchers concerned.

The following carcasses were condemned as being unfit for food :—

Beasts	...	...	...	...	8
Sheep	...	...	...	...	12
Pigs	...	...	...	...	5
Offal	...	...	...	...	17

All condemned meat is carted away by the Council to a waste eliminating plant.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The area is a very large one and of a scattered nature, calling for a lot of time and travelling when inspecting the various farms.

The Council now co-operate with the County Council in the collection and analysis of samples of milk. This arrangement is working satisfactorily, and has resulted in a more efficient system of sampling.

During the year 63 routine samples were taken and 31 school samples. In addition 34 samples were taken from tuberculin tested producers and 66 from accredited producers. The majority of these were found to be satisfactory and no samples contained tubercle bacilli.

Nutrition.

The following table shows the percentage of various degrees of nutrition as found during the course of school medical inspection in 1938 :—

NUTRITION.

	Number of Children examined	Very Good	Per Cent.	Good	Per Cent.	Sub- normal	Per Cent.	Malnu- trition
Entrants	131	46	35	80	61	5	4	Nil
2nd Age Group (Intermediates)	118	26	22	85	72	7	6	Nil
3rd Age Group (Leavers)	133	48	36	76	57	9	7	Nil

Eighteen Schools in the area out of a total of 33 have adopted the milk in schools scheme of the Milk Marketing Board, and every encouragement is given to parents to avail themselves of this excellent scheme.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Practical experience in this area demonstrates that it is unwise to concentrate solely on rat week in November, and although the autumn is undoubtedly a good time to carry out such work, endeavours are made to conduct a continuous offensive against rats and mice throughout the year.

During inspections of farms and other premises in various parts of the district, evidence of rat infestation has been frequently found and the occupiers have been warned accordingly.

Arrangements have been made with the Cumberland County Council to maintain a regular supply of rat poison in the Surveyor's office all the year round for distribution, free of charge, to occupiers of rat-infested premises. This service is now well known throughout the area, and we have numerous applicants for rat poison every week.

During National Rat Week in November, posters are put up on the various parish notice boards, etc., and pamphlets, giving information on the subject, are also available, free of charge, to members of the public,

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A Summary of the Notifiable Diseases (excepting Tuberculosis)
is as follows :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (except Tuberculosis).															
Diseases.	AGES.												TOTAL.	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths.
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-			
Smallpox
Scarlet Fever	1	4	2	17	12	2	3	..	..	..	36	..	..
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..
Enteric Fever
Puerperal Pyrexia..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Pneumonia	1	..	3	2	2	1	4	1	3	..	17	..	2
Erysipelas	1	1	3	..	5	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica
												Totals	70	40	2

Scarlet Fever.

41 cases were notified in 1938 compared with only 4 cases during 1937, 11 cases in 1936 and 14 cases in 1935.

It is a remarkable fact that cases were recorded in every month of the year with the exception of February, and that a similar series of notifications occurred in the Penrith Urban District during the same period.

It would appear therefore that this infection persisted throughout the Penrith Districts and was therefore endemic during the year, with occasional small localised epidemics. Seven cases were among pre-school age children, and there were five adults affected. Twenty-nine school children contracted scarlet fever, and the schools mainly affected were Culgaith, Kirkoswald and High Hesket.

School closure is a doubtful expedient for preventing the spread of infectious disease, particularly in towns or large villages, where children play together in the streets or roads.

Thirty-six cases were removed to the Fairhill Isolation Hospital and fortunately there were no deaths. One case originally notified as "diphtheria" was sent in to hospital as a case of septic scarlet fever, and made a good recovery.

The control of scarlet fever is rendered very difficult by reason of its complicated bacteriology. Professor Dick studied sixty different strains of haemolytic streptococci "and of these twenty-seven were identified as scarlet fever streptococci, nineteen as erysipelas streptococci, and fourteen were not identified because they were nontoxigenic under the condition of the experiment." Dick showed that the fourteen haemolytic streptococci caused only sore throat or sinus infection, whereas in groups infected with scarlet fever or erysipelas streptococci there was evidence that the organisms were able to invade the tissues. Middle ear disease occurred in three persons infected with scarlet fever streptococci, and in three persons infected with erysipelas streptococci. Mastoid disease was present in two persons infected with scarlet fever streptococci and in two infected with erysipelas streptococci. Sore throat and sinusitis were common to all three groups "No case having erysipelas or nontoxigenic streptococci was classed as scarlet fever or as 'suspected scarlet fever,' while ten cases from which scarlet fever streptococci were isolated were so classed." This demonstrates the *specificity* of scarlet fever streptococci.

The scarlet fever carrier is most probably a serious menace to other persons, and in this connection a patient may be observed who suffers from "sub-clinical scarlet fever" *i.e.* merely a "scratchy throat" with reddening of the fauces and swabs from the latter giving a positive result for haemolytic streptococci,

These people may rapidly become immune themselves, and are very important as they may carry the infection of scarlet fever as long as patients who have had a typical attack of the disease.

The missed cases of scarlet fever, *i.e.* the patient who has only sore throat and fever and no rash, or only a transient rash, is another possible menace in spreading the disease.

Persistent carriers however generally suffer from sinusitis and/or chronic rhinitis or middle ear disease. The Prontosil (Sulphonamide) group of drugs are now recognised as important agents in the treatment of haemolytic streptococcal infections.

Diphtheria.

Three isolated cases were notified ; the first, a woman, aged 23 years, on 7th June, 1938, who proved to be a severe case ; the second, on 18th July, 1938, a pre-school age child ; and, the third, a woman, aged 32 years, on 21st September, 1938.

The small child, who suffered from laryngeal diphtheria, had not been inoculated, although school children contacts at his own home who had been immunized at school against diphtheria remained well. It is to be noted that no cases occurred amongst school children during the year.

Artificial Immunization against Diphtheria.

The work was continued during 1938, and the figures are as follows :—

Diphtheria - Preventive Inoculation.

No. of children attending Schools in the District who have received a 3rd injection of T.A.F. during 1938 :-

<i>School.</i>	<i>No. of Children Inoculated.</i>			
Melmerby	24
Maughanby	11
Gamblesby	8
Hunsonby	33
Edenhall	6
Culgaith	21
Kirkoswald	39
Skirwith	23
Langwathby	22
Calthwaite	21
High Hesket	35
Great Salkeld	29
Lazonby	30
Ousby	18
Plumpton	11
Total ..				331

In addition the undermentioned children received 2 injections of T.A.F. in 1938 and have received a 3rd injection in 1939 :-

Ainstable ..	..	..	..	..	32
Armathwaite ..	..	..	..	..	25
Croglin ..	..	..	..	..	5
Renwick ..	..	..	..	..	18
					—
					80
					—

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case was notified in 1938.

Pneumonia.

This disease accounted for the only deaths recorded under the heading "Notifiable Diseases (except Tuberculosis)" during the year. There were seventeen cases and two deaths compared with sixteen cases and five deaths in 1937. Only primary or influenzal pneumonia is notifiable. Pneumonia secondary to another disease, *e.g.*, whooping cough, measles, etc., is not notifiable.

Erysipelas.

Five cases occurred in 1938 compared with only one case in 1937. This finding is comparable with the figures obtaining in the Penrith Urban District, and is further proof that 1938 was a "streptococcal year." Erysipelas tends to recur in the same individual, and the cases were all adults.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There was one case in 1938. This disease is notified direct to the County Medical Officer of Health who later transmits a copy to the District Council.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

This case, a male aged 24 years, was admitted to the Fairhill Isolation Hospital on 19th May, 1938, and made an excellent recovery. The case mortality from this disease is very high.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

One case was notified in 1938, a girl, aged 7 years and 11 months, who was sent to the Ethel Hedley Orthopædic Hospital at Windermere on 22nd February, 1938. She made a good recovery and returned to Skelton School on 1st May, 1939. This child is now wearing an iron splint for the right leg and is getting about very well.

It is gratifying that no cases of **Smallpox**, **Enteric Fever** or **Encephalitis Lethargica** occurred during 1938.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

A sharp and widespread epidemic broke out in the Penrith Rural Area during the latter days of January, and caused the closure of fifteen schools as enumerated on page 13 of this Report.

A report was made to the Health Committee recommending that severe or complicated cases of measles should be admitted to the Isolation Hospital, particularly where overcrowding or otherwise unsuitable home conditions existed.

The following were admitted to the Fairhill Isolation Hospital:—

4/3/38—Male, 17 years—died (dead on admission).

11/3/38—Male, 4½ years—recovered.

16/3/38—Female, 8 months—recovered.

28/3/38—Male, 10 years—recovered.

Further, it was decided to advertise in the local press “ Advice regarding Measles.”

There was one death, a male, aged 17 years, on 4/3/1938 (complicated by broncho-pneumonia). Unfortunately this death occurred in the Isolation Hospital ambulance on the way to the Hospital. All other severe cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital recovered.

Influenza.

Another widespread epidemic occurred in the early weeks of the year and accounted for one death, viz. :—female, aged 59, who suffered from “ influenzal pneumonia ” and died on 18th January, 1938.

4. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No case has arisen where it was necessary to take action under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for preventing blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes.

4. (b)

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been necessary in respect to Tuberculosis among persons employed in the Milk Trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases now in the district is apparently 23 as compared with 24 at the end of last year. Two deaths were recorded during the year—one pulmonary 3 months after notification, and one non-pulmonary, a notified case of acute miliary tuberculosis.

There were four new cases in 1938, two pulmonary and two non-pulmonary.

The notification was properly carried out, and it will be seen that tuberculosis was once again not a major problem in the Penrith Rural District.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

AGES.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respir.		Respiratory		Non-Respir.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
To One year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 „	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
15 to 25 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 „	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	—

Number of cases on the Register at the end of the year is 23, viz. :—

Males.		Females.	
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
4	...	8	10
		...	1

CANCER.

The deaths from this disease were less than in 1937, viz. : 17 as compared with 23 deaths last year, and comprising eleven males and six females as follows :—

Pancreas—F. 81.

Prostate—M. 65 ; M. 65 ; M. 75 ; M. 75.

Stomach—M. 75 ; M. 69 ; M. 77.

Rectum—M. 63 ; F. 66.

Colon—F. 61 ; M. 68 ; F. 75 ; F. 55.

Oesophagus—M. 65.

Duodenojejunal junction—M. 58.

Skin—F. 79.

APPENDIX I(a).

Causes of Deaths as given by the Registrar-General.

					Males.		Females.		Total.
Measles	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	..	1	..	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	—	..	1	..	1
Respiratory Tubercle	..	..	..	..	1	..	—	..	1
Other Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Cancer	..	..	..	..	11	..	6	..	17
Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	5
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	..	..	..	..	7	..	3	..	10
Senility	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Other Violence	..	..	..	..	—	..	3	..	3
Other Defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	7	..	10	..	17
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	..	1	..	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	..	5
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	18	..	22	..	40
Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	..	3	..	7	..	10
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	..	—	..	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	2	..	—	..	2
Peptic Ulcer..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—	..	1
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	1	..	—	..	1
					—		—		—
Totals	..	..	..	..	65	..	68	..	133
					—		—		—

APPENDIX I(b).

Causes.	Un- der 1	1- 2	2- 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	Over 65	Totals.
Measles	1	..	..	..	1
Influenza	1	..	1
Tuberculosis—respiratory	1	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	..	..	..	2
Cancer	7	10	17
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	10	11
Heart Disease	1	..	4	24	29
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	3	8
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Appendicitis	1	..	..	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	2	3	6
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c. ..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Senility	11	11
Other Violence	1	..	..	..	1	2
Other Defined Diseases ..	1	..	1	..	1	2	2	5	12
Causes, ill-defined or unknown..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals	14	..	1	2	4	4	30	78	133

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

					Inspections.	Written Notices.	
Factories ..	..	..	..	..	—	..	—
Workshops	..	..	..	..	40	..	6
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	—	..	—
					40	..	6
					—		—
					Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.	
Want of Cleanliness ..	..				4	..	4
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences		..			2	..	2
					—		—
					6	..	6
					—		—

No occupiers prosecuted.

